

REMINISCENCES

OF

ELYRIA, OHIO

MRS. MARY BEEBE HALL

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ERRATA.

Page 33—

Seventh line from bottom, read “would wear” in place of wore.

Fifth line from bottom, read “admissible” instead of admittable.

Page 34—

Thirteenth line from bottom, read “Nahum” instead of Nathan.

Page 35—

Eleventh line from bottom, read “colonizationists” instead of colonists.



MRS. MARY BEEBE HALL

COMPLIMENTS OF
DAVID C. BALDWIN

REMINISCENCES

OF

ELYRIA, OHIO.

DEDICATED TO THE LORAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL
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MARCH 1, 1900.

MRS. MARY BEEBE HALL.

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Reminiscences of Elyria.

MRS. MARY BEEBE HALL.

AT the request of the Lorain County Historical Society, I present herein the following fragmentary and disconnected sketch of the early settlement of Elyria, Ohio, partly made up from notes and data of my revered father (the late Artemas Beebe, Sr.) and partly from my own recollections of my native place:

In 1816, Mr. Heman Ely, of West Springfield, Mass., left his home in a sulky, came to Buffalo, from there he finished his journey on horseback. In coming along the lake shore he followed the trail through the woods along the lake. The ground was soft and gave way, the horse's hind feet were thrown over the high bank, but he clung with his fore feet to the ground and the life of the founder of Elyria was saved. Mr. Ely made his home with Moses Eldred, who kept a log tavern two miles east of Elyria, known at this date as the Savage farm.

At this time Wyandot and Seneca Indians roamed these forests, "monarchs of all they surveyed," coming up the Canesadoohari (Black River) to Big Falls in canoes, camping on Evergreen Point (Washington avenue). Skulls, arrows and cooking utensils have been discovered along the river and in the big cave, showing this spot was a favorite camping ground.

Mr. Ely at once made a contract with Hubbel & Shipperd, of Newburg, Ohio, to build a dam across Black river at the foot of Main street, a grist and saw mill below, a log house to be occupied by the men to carry on the improvements. This log house stood in front of the power house of the electric road at the foot of Broad street.

In January, 1817, Roderick Ashley, Edwin Bush, and James Porter came from Massachusetts on foot with axes on their shoulders to fell the trees and clear the land for a town, beginning at the east end of Broad street.

James Porter, the Irishman, remained in Elyria, acquired property, built houses and died here, leaving a family, the others returned to their homes in New England.

John Bacon, of Columbia, and his family, kept this house and boarded the men.

Mr. Ely returned to West Springfield to make arrangements to continue the improvements. In February, 1817, with six in his party: Mr. Ely, Ebenezer Lane, stepbrother of Mr. Ely; Artemas Beebe, builder; Luther Lane, who drove the team; Ann Snow, cook; and Ned, a colored boy, in a stout lumber wagon covered with tow cloth, started in good spirits for the western wilderness. After various mishaps they arrived at Black River on the 17th of March, 1817. Finding the river too high to ford with wagon some of the party returned to Moses Eldred's log tavern. The remainder of the party signaled Roderick Ashley and with a canoe were taken across the river to the log boarding house, had a hearty welcome and a good supper of venison—a new dish to the Yankee boys.

This boarding house had a large room for living room, kitchen, dining room and pantry, two large bed rooms, a large fire-place for heating and cooking, a ladder in one corner reached the undivided chamber, very comfortable in summer for a sleeping room, but in the winter the snow would blow through under the shakes, covering the beds and

floor, not a pleasant place to dress, no toilet arrangements were furnished in the rooms, a bench in corner of living room held a tin basin in the winter, in summer a stump was utilized outside.

The bedsteads were made of poles, springs of bark. Pillows that could pass for shams, stout ticks filled with straw for beds.

The Bacons returned to their own house and Ann Snow began the housekeeping. The food was flour, shack pork (pigs fattened on nuts in the woods), and a small brown pea. The Indians furnished the first fresh fish caught below Big Falls, and occasionally a deer would be brought in by them on their way from Lower Sandusky.

Black river was a much larger stream than now, being fed by swamps and small streams. No other log house was built in the village of Elyria, which was between the east and west branches of the river, but from time to time much of the township has been added to the corporation. A few years since a log house was built on the fair grounds as a reminder of the homes in the west.

The road coming into town was by the cemetery, through the lot known in after years as Crabapple Orchard, the cider of which was famous. At present, streets and pretty homes take the place of Crabapple Orchard.

Across the river below, the railroad bridge intersected Main street near Cedar, westerly crossing Black River near Mussey's quarry on Murray Ridge, where the Infirmary is, around the big Cranberry marsh to South Ridge on to South Amherst.

This road was supposed to be the one Hull's army passed over in the war of 1812. As there were no bridges at this time travelers had to wait for the streams to fall if they chanced to strike them when high. There was a ferry across Cuyahoga river, one log house half way to Cleveland at this date.

The Indians were great lovers of whiskey, which was made in a distillery built in 1819, by one Wright, on the gravel lot opposite the cemetery. They would come into town riding bareback, wrapped in blankets, single file, with squaws behind and papposes strapped to their backs. The Indians kept one sober to control the others. They were generally very peaceable. A favorite camping place was along the river, known for years as the Hoyle property. The soil was sandy and a growth of evergreen made a fine place for their tents. A party passing when Mr. Ely's house was being built, said: "What you doing here, you white man?" Answer—"Building a house for Mr. Ely." "You no business here. This land belongs to us Indians." Some of their names were "Good Heart," "Red Jacket," "Betwixt the Logs."

Wild animals were numerous at the time of the settlement of Elyria, and for several years after, and were hunted and destroyed as they were so destructive to the pigs that lived in the woods and dangerous to travelers, for wolves roamed about up and down, making night hideous with their howling. The last one killed, after being followed for days, was in 1844, at New Haven, Huron county. The skin was stuffed and placed in Natural History room in Ely block.

In the winter of 1830, Albert A. Harris, a resident of Elyria, later connected with the Cleveland Herald, met a bear and three cubs on what is now known as Lake avenue. The bear fled on being shot at and the cubs took to a tree. They were brought down by shots, captured and exhibited in town. My own view of them was from the top of a kitchen table.

In 1831 a bear passed through town pursued by hunters, creating a disturbance among the children as it passed back of the school house, which stood on the park. It was killed three miles out on the road now known as Lake avenue, and was the last one seen in town. Deer were very plenty and



EAST FALLS AND OLD RED MILL

often ventured near the dwellings. Large droves were seen at times. Wild turkey were numerous, a thirty pounder was sold for thirty cents.

Snakes were very common along the river, especially along the west branch, where there were dens of rattle snakes, and many parties were formed to destroy them. Deacon Lane made a mark for every one he killed on a fallen tree, and had forty.

Mr. Lang, of Cleveland, born in Elyria in 1823 in a house owned by Angeline Brown on corner of East avenue north, told me this summer that his father had a pair of shoes made of rattle snake skins when he was a small child.

The first building erected in Elyria was a small frame one-story building on the southwest corner of the Ely homestead lot. It was used the first year as a joiner shop, the next year as a general store kept by Edward West & Co., and the first store in Elyria, which has been noted all these years for the extensive trade from all the country about it. This building was made into a dwelling house enlarged, and used as the home of many of Elyria's early citizens and was the home where N. B. Gates commenced housekeeping. Later this building was moved to the other side of Main street.

The first frame dwelling was a residence for Mr. Ely on Main street. It was forty-five feet front, forty feet deep, two stories with cellar under the main part, kitchen in rear, fire-places in every room, brick oven in kitchen, as well as a fire-place to do the cooking for the family, as no stoves were known at such an early date. The siding of the house was made from one white wood tree cut on the place near the bend in the road.

A large barn was being built at the same time. Invitations were sent to Ridgeville, which was settled before Elyria, and the country about and were readi'ly responded to, and both frames were raised the same day.

The house has undergone great changes inside and out. With the green-houses, the fine gardens filled with choice flowers, it is very unlike the plain two-story house, the first Ely homestead, which has descended from father to sons, and occupied at present by the grandson Charles.

Mr. Ely returned to West Springfield in the fall of 1818, going by the steam boat "Walk-in-the-Water," the first steam boat on the lake, to Buffalo. He was married on the 10th of October to Celia Belden, and in company with Ebenezer Lane, afterwards Chief Justice of Court, a man of wide reputation, who married a daughter of Governor Griswold, of Connecticut, returned to Elyria. As the Ely home was not finished they occupied the log house. When it was known Mr. Ely had returned with a wife, Mrs. Geo. Sexton, of Ridgeville, sister of W. O. Cahoon, of Elyria, and a friend, came to call on the bride and welcome her. They were pleasantly entertained, and after tea started for home through the woods, but lost their way near where the switch house of the Lake Shore is, and passed the night between two leaning trees until daylight, which was long in coming. They found their way home rejoiced on their safe return and pleasant call.

Mrs. Ely was a lovely woman, beloved by all who knew her. Children were specially fond of her. She did not live long to enjoy the home she had helped to make. She died in 1827, leaving two sons, Heman and Albert.

Mr. Ely rode on horseback a great deal, made one or two trips to Massachusetts and Columbus. He was often accompanied by his wife in riding about the country. On one of her trips she used for a riding whip a willow switch cut from a tree on the river road. On her return it was put in the ground on the corner and grew to an immense size, overshadowing an office which was built there. Mr. Ely was known as Judge Ely, having been Associate Judge. He took great interest in all that conduced to the growth and pros-



EAST BRANCH OF BLACK RIVER

perity of the town, was very methodical and just in his dealings with men, holding all to contracts and keeping his own word. He took great pride in having the town tidy and streets well kept. On his bay horse, Monday morning, accompanied by horse, cart and driver, he oversaw the work of clearing away all rubbish in the streets. He not only took great interest in the town, but was wide-awake and interested in all moral and religious work. He died in 1852, leaving three sons. Heman Ely was born October 30, 1820, in Elyria, the eldest son of Judge Ely. He had a very thorough business training by his father, was identified with all prominent enterprises, organizing the banks. He was active in securing the railroad from Cleveland to Toledo in 1852, and was representative in the Legislature in 1872-3, was a high Mason, gave much time and attention to the lodge, held a high position, was thoroughly Republican in politics, an active, interested member of the Congregational Church and superintendent of the Sunday-school for many years. He was one of the builders of the fine stone church for which he did much to sustain. In 1841 he married Mary Monteith, who died in 1849, leaving three children, only one of whom survives, namely George H. In 1850 Mr. Ely married Mary Day, of Hartford, Conn. Four children were born to this marriage, all of whom survive the beloved mother and father.

Mrs. Mary Day Ely was a lovely Christian woman, active in all religious work in her own church, but not confined to that alone. She was a friend in need to the many to whom she ministered. One used to say: "How does she know of these?" in a quiet way, as if she had known. Like disappointment and suffering, she sought the poor, the afflicted with lovely Christian spirit and sympathy.

"Nor hath she ever chanced to know
That aught were easier than to bless."

Mr. Ely died in 1891, Mrs. Ely, September 15, 1895.

The next house after Mr. Ely's was built by Beebe and Douglas on the first lot purchased in the village of Elyria opposite the Ely homestead, a large two-story house built for a tavern (as hotels were unknown at that time). Mr. Beebe bought out his partner in 1819.

This house was for years known as Beebe tavern where people gathered as a center for social life. The Masonic Lodge was organized here. It was the stopping place for travelers seeking western homes; also for lawyers and judges while holding court. Later on it became the stage house, from whose door the stage left on its daily trips east and west. Mr. Beebe journeyed back and forth to his New England home a number of times on foot or with horse and buggy until October 4, 1820, he was married to Pamela Morgan, of West Springfield, Mass., and started for their western home with a span of horses, and covered wagon filled with all possible articles to take, for housekeeping (necessities largely). A big brass kettle to use over the fire for all domestic purposes, brass andirons, candlesticks, warming pan to heat the beds, foot stove to use in riding, or sitting in cold rooms, bed linen and wardrobe, and for four long weeks this young couple journeyed on through mud and various mishaps of overturned wagon, a roll down hill of wagon and contents, and landed in Elyria to begin their home-making in a large and unplastered house, welcomed by Captain Cooley and family, who had occupied the house after it was finished up to Mr. Beebe's home-coming with his wife.

This home contained large fire-places in all the living rooms and a larger one in the kitchen with oven and crane, and a big stone hearth, plenty of wood to burn, big backlogs for foundation, for fires were always buried at night, as matches were not known.

What a beginning for a bride who left the old home on the Connecticut river, father, mother, sisters and brothers, and the church on the hill for the log church in the woods.



ARTEMAS BEEBE TAVERN—1820

Two weeks would intervene ere any word from the "old folks at home" could arrive.

Mrs. Beebe was one of the ten who organized the Presbyterian church in Elyria in 1824 (later on changed to Congregational), and with Mrs. Ely, who were both members of the choir at home, continued to take active part in building up this new church.

The arrangement of this home was typical of many others of the early times with fire-places and ovens. Occasionally the ovens were built outside under a shed with a big stump used for foundation.

This big fire-place deserves a passing notice and I always feel sorry for people who never have known how much pleasure is associated with it, as it, with the oven, was the only cooking arrangements. A large iron bake kettle with a lid would be utilized at times in the corner of the big hearth. What a delight for a child to sit and watch the process, with live coals from fire-place under and over, biscuits, gingerbread and johnnycake were done to a turn. Once a week the oven would be heated, filled with bread, pies and cake; what anticipations of coming good things. Beefsteak on gridiron in front of the fire with live coals to broil it (never such steak), spare-ribs or turkey on a cord in front of the fire, turned and basted until fit for a king. How pretty a row of apples looked roasting, how nice corn popped, and what fun to crack hickorynuts on the stone hearth (for *it* did not crack *it*) and eaten in the evenings. Baskets full were gathered and spread on garret floor, making a winter's supply for family and friends. Sweet cider, too. Stomachs were not recognized; one never heard of appendicitis. There were rhubarb and castor oil in the house, and peppermint in the lot, if one needed remedies in emergencies.

Candles were depended upon for lighting houses, meetings and going about the streets on dark nights with a tin lantern. They were made in the fall and it was a disagreeable

task, but a necessity. Notices were often given that meetings will begin at early candle light (we wish they did now). One good minister, in giving a weekly notice, said: "Meeting will begin at early candle light, the Lord willing, Tuesday night and Thursday night same time, "willing or not." Candle snuffing was quite a feat in absence of snuffers—fingers did the work, but with great dexterity. For making candles a special day was set apart and arranged for previously, the big kitchen prepared by laying boards on the floor to catch drops of tallow, ashes or sand in the center for the big brass kettle full of melted tallow to stand on. Sticks of wood resting on chairs turned down for the rods of candle wicks prepared the night before, were dipped straightened, going back and forth until large enough, then packed in boxes for use. Moulds of tin were utilized for special occasions. Another use for the big kettle was boiling cider for the winter's apple sauce. As soon as daylight the morning after the new cider was brought home, this kettle was filled with it to be boiled down until the barrel was emptied and nearly half boiled away. The quinces and apples were ready to be cooked and constantly stirred until done. The tub was filled, put in a *cool* room and kept for ready use. The curing of beef and pork for family use, the lard, sausage and *all* cared for by good house wives, involved labor and care. People did not live from hand to mouth, but made generous provision for the needs of the household.

The big marsh west of town furnished plenty of cranberries, and a great picnic for children was to gather them, with a word now and then, "Look out for snakes," as they scooped them up. With three and four bushels for the day they drove proudly home behind "the old white horse," good at going down *hill*, but not so ready to go up, and had to be helped at times.

One of the pioneer women raised the first cucumbers in a rotten stump. The first cooked tomatoes seen here was a

fine large dish full sent for our dinner by Mr. Ely. They looked *so* pretty and it was such a neighborly act, but justice to the treat failed to be done. It required time and practice to like tomatoes.

In 1835, having built a house on the corner of Broad street and East avenue, Mr. Beebe rented the tavern to George Prior, brother-in-law of Mr. Ely's, and removed to this home, which has been the homestead, and is still occupied by the youngest daughter. In 1847 Mr. Beebe completed the Beebe House at the corner of the park and Main street. At the time of its building no town of the size of Elyria could boast of such a fine substantial hotel, an ornament to the town and a credit to the builder, who wished to furnish suitable accommodations for the increasing population of town and country. It was built and kept as a temperance house, so long as owned by the family. Gatherings from town and country were entertained in the large parlors and dining room; also sleigh rides and banquets. The fourth floor was the Odd Fellows' Lodge for years. The dancing hall for private parties made this hotel the center for social life.

The first bank was located on Main street. The postoffice next with stores and offices made it a busy place. The first photograph gallery, by Ryder, was on the second floor on Main street.

In 1818 a post route was established (the first carrier was Mr. Wolverton) between Cleveland and Lower Sandusky (now Fremont). The mail was carried on horseback once a week the first year, then twice a week, and it was considered a great privilege to have mail come even at long intervals. A postoffice was established and Mr. Ely was postmaster, and continued to be for fifteen years, and was succeeded in 1833 by John Matson, a Jackson man. The office was not lucrative enough to be sought for, but party spirit wished for the power, even in such a small affair. Commission due post-

master, after paying quarterly balance due the government, was between \$2.40 and \$2.28 the first four years. Envelopes were not known, sheets of foolscap paper were folded, sealed with wafers or sealing wax, and postage twenty-five cents.

In 1826 Mr. Beebe and Ezra Adams, who came from Connecticut, bought out Mr. Wolverton's mail route. The next year Mr. Beebe bought out Mr. Adams and stocked the road as well as possible. In 1827 he went to Washington, and through the influence of Mr. Ely and Mr. Whittlesey, secured the contract for carrying the mail and established a stage line from Cleveland to Fremont via Norwalk, leaving Cleveland at 6 o'clock in the morning. The great difficulty was crossing Cuyahoga river as there was no way except by a rickety old ferry. The route was through the woods to Rocky river, which was very difficult to cross owing to steep banks. The road was called Hog's Back on account of its shape. The first coach was a six passenger, later nine. The first trips made by this stage, with the tooting of the horn announcing its approach, created greater interest than the first railroad train a quarter of a century later. Bad roads and bridgeless streams made transporting passengers and mail dangerous and perplexing when the rivers were high and had to be forded. One serious accident is worth mentioning here, it entailing great loss upon Mr. Beebe and giving some idea of the courage and pluck necessary to make improvements in a new country. A race course had been dug at Rocky river to convey the water to a saw mill below and had to be forded as well as the river. In the flood of 1828, when the driver attempted to cross the race with the coach, the water was so deep that the horses, coach and all were swept into the river. Old Prince, one of the four horses, broke loose and swam ashore. The rest drowned and floated onto an island. The harness was saved, but the coach and buffalo robes floated into the lake and were lost. The mail had been removed before trying to make the ford



CHEAPSIDE IN 1860

and was saved and forwarded without much delay. Uncle Sam recognized no hindrances in forwarding the mail. The roads gradually improved by working, opening up to sunshine and by clearing away the forest. In a few years Mr. Beebe was able to run several sleighs as coaches, for much snow gave good sleighing in the early winters. Merchandise came to Cleveland and Black River by vessels and was hauled to Elyria by wagons. One of our town merchants made the trip to New York, bought and shipped his goods in two weeks, which was a wonderfully quick trip. It took much longer to get the goods to Elyria by canal and Lake Erie, and the hauling by wagons from Black river or Cleveland was a serious matter. This merchant was David Andrews, (father of Burton Andrews and Mrs. Terry) who, with Levi Morse, were dry goods merchants.

The first birth in the township was in a family named Beach, who, in 1816, settled in a shanty two miles west of the village. On the 10th of September, 1817, a son was born, and named Henry. In November Mr. Beach died of malarial fever. Mrs. Beach took her family and her dead husband to Ridgeville and buried him east of the center. She lived in the school house some time and in a few months married Amos Sperry. This marriage was alluded to in biographical rhyme written by the son Henry and published in the Democrat, February 17, 1875.

"It happened the year previous
That he lost his beloved wife
And wanted a companion
Congenial for life.

"Our mother she consented
His companion for to be,
And they lived in true friendship
Till his death set them free."

The first death in the township was the wife of Enos Mann, who came from Becket, Mass., made the journey with a team called a spike team—a yoke of oxen and a horse as

leader—attached to a stout wagon loaded with his family and household goods. He located opposite where Mr. Hamilton lives on Cleveland street, and was a manufacturer of wooden bowls, much used at that time. Soon after the birth of Henry Beach, a son was born to the Manns, the second child born in Elyria. Mrs. Mann proposed to Mr. Ely to name him Ely Mann, but he declined the honor, as he feared to establish the precedent of giving fifty acres of land to all sons named after him, fearing the land would not hold out. Mrs. Mann died the 9th of March, 1823, and was the first person buried in the Elyria cemetery. Her grave was marked by a plain sand stone slab, bearing the following inscription: "In memory of Mrs. Clamency Mann, who died March 9th, 1823, in the fortieth year of her age." The stone still stands, seventy-six years having elapsed since it was placed in the cemetery.

Great difficulty was experienced in finding suitable ground for a cemetery on account of wet soil, hence this was selected, which has been enlarged from time to time and to-day is filled with the graves of hundreds who have lived and died in Elyria. Unknowing and unknown "they forgotten lie" by the many who visit the city of the dead.

Among the very early settlers was Captain Festus Cooley, who, in August, 1819, came from Westfield, Mass., to take charge of the mills. He obtained the title of Captain in commanding a military company in the war of 1812 in Massachusetts. The following spring he returned for his family—his wife, one son and two daughters—and moved into the Beebe tavern, which they occupied until Mr. Beebe returned with his wife in 1820. The son, Festus, was for years an active business man in Elyria, accumulating a handsome property. He removed to Kansas where he and his wife both died. Of their four children, the only one living is Mrs. Harriet Cooley Bronson, in this city. The daughters, Mrs. Barnard and younger sister, both died in early

womanhood. Captain Cooley died in 1872 aged 86, his wife in August, 1876.

In 1821, Ezra Adams, of Canton, Conn., came in a one-horse wagon with his family. Martin Pond, a brother of Mrs. Adams, eleven years old, came with them. Mr. Adams was a harness maker by trade and was for a short time associated with Mr. Beebe in carrying the mails, taking it west of Elyria, but he soon sold out to Mr. Beebe and resumed his trade. Mr. Pond learned the harness business and continued it for years, and with a number of valuable patents and real estate dealings, which increased in value, made him one of the monied men of the town. He lived to be 80 years of age and died in the home he had so long occupied, leaving one only daughter, Lizzie Pond Bowen, the only representative of a family of four children. His wife died in 1887, Mr. Pond in 1897.

The writer is indebted to the Elyria papers in giving the biography of Mr. and Mrs. Artemas Beebe, who were the only ones left of the pioneers of Elyria.

Mrs. Pamela Beebe, wife of Artemas Beebe, died June 26, 1878, aged 79 years. Two generations had come and gone since she first made her home in the wilds of Elyria.

"Oh the changes she had seen
In her long and winding way.
The graves that in her path had grown green
And the locks that had grown gray."

During all the early years she endured the trials and privations of pioneer life in the even tenor of her ways, quiet and indomitable, she followed out her course of life, helping many about her with a cheerful, hopeful spirit, and as her life was drawing to a close she made her preparation with perfect composure and Christian faith, leaving the helpless husband to the care of three loving children. She died full of the assurance of the Christian, the last member of the First Presbyterian Church established in 1824, which she had

seen grow out of the log house to a fine Gothic stone church.

Mr. Artemas Beebe died March 29, 1880, aged eighty-six years and six months, the last of the pioneer band of six who came in 1817 to build a town in the wilds of Ohio. From the hamlet he had seen it grow to a city of ten thousand people, having in many enterprises assisted in its growth and prosperity. He was one of the original stockholders and directors of the Lorain Bank in 1847, and was identified with it up to the time of his death. Of the officers who signed resolutions of respect on that occasion, John W. Hulburt is the only survivor. Mr. Beebe was a man of strict integrity, careful and ready to aid the cause of morality and religion, and a regular attendant at religious services, although he did not profess religion until 1866, when he joined the Congregational Church, to which, including the Sunday-school, he was liberal, giving a complete library at one time, helping to build and sustain the Old Stone Church and other causes, and any cause of interest outside. Mr. and Mrs. Beebe left two sons, Henry, at Put-in-Bay, and Artemas, who died in Elyria (and soon followed by his only daughter, Mary Beebe Williams, and later his wife). Mary, the eldest daughter, Sarah Turner, of Chicago, and Pamela, residing in the old homestead. The majority of this family are on the other side.

The first celebration of the 4th of July was in 1819. Arrangements were made and carried out for celebrating the day in a manner becoming the sons of New England patriots so far as they had the means to do so. Invitations were sent to Grafton and Ridgeville, who responded with great anticipation of pleasure, it being the first general gathering of the settlers in the woods.

A blacksmith's anvil served to fire the morning salute, and during the day Eldridge Gerrey, of Ridgeville, was the orator of the day, whose patriotic speech was loudly applauded. David Gibbs, of Carlisle, uncle of Mrs. Harriet Wooster, led



WINTER SCENE—WEST FALLS

the martial music. He was a good drummer and skilled on the fife and clarinet. What is more inspiring now than martial music? A sumptuous dinner was served at the tavern. A stuffed roast pig was at the head of the table with a cob of corn in his mouth as if captured before he could dispose of it, and there was roast venison and all available vegetables. Popular beverages, of which whisky was the chief ingredient, was the dessert.

In order to celebrate the day in a manner as near as possible to the old-fashioned celebration, an old fowling piece was strapped on the back of John Gould, who served as a gun carriage by placing himself on all fours. When a toast was given, the gunner, with a lighted poker, discharged the gun and the cheers from the crowd echoing and reëchoing in the woods was fun and enthusiasm. Whether John Gould was a relative of Jay Gould, the millionaire, history does not say, but he could not have manifested his patriotism more effectually than did John Gould in 1819. The day closed with a grand ball in the old tavern, John Thaler, of Ridgeville, being the fiddler. All went home satisfied with the 4th of July celebration of 1819. The Grafton men had to wait until morning to find their way through the woods with their ox teams and by marked trees. Though whisky was freely used not a drunken man was to be seen and there were no accidents. In all the towns military companies were formed and general trainings were given in the fall in Elyria. The captains wore blue coats with brass buttons, marching and countermarching to the music of fife and drum, giving orders, "forward, march; right about face." A fantastic company was organized, making a great display in peculiar uniforms with sashes on their shoulders and plumes sweeping to the steeds they rode. N. B. Gates, on his famous Bucephalus, commanded this company and obtained the title of Colonel, which was fittingly given him, a well grown Green mountain boy.

Did not these early trainings have some influence in the education of "Our Boys," which was manifested in the ready response to the call of Abraham Lincoln in the war of the Rebellion for three hundred thousand more? This may be a fitting place to give a poem published in the Elyria Republican in 1862:

The gallant boys of Old Lorain,
At the President's call for volunteers,
None rushed to arms with louder cheers,
Than the gallant boys of Old Lorain.

Hating rebellion, treason scorning,
Always ready at a moment's warning
To march, thro' mud, snow and rain,
Are the gallant boys of Old Lorain.

The first at Romney to charge with a yell
Which caused the rebels to run pell mell
So they dare not face our army again,
Were the gallant boys of Old Lorain.

The traitors will find when they foot the bills
The Yankees are something besides mud sills.
And when the war is over we'll have peace again,
We'll welcome the boys of Old Lorain.

Some of our gallant boys are sleeping in southern soil, some in our cemetery, whose graves are annually decorated. The long, solemn procession with flowers and with veterans in carriages who live to help commemorate this annual memorial service, is one in which children should take part and know the history of the Civil War and its cost of life, of which our beautiful monument is a constant reminder.

After the war of the Rebellion was over, it was said that no such response to a call to arms would be made again. But in 1897, as "Remember the Maine" was sounded through the land, this was refuted. The marching of troops was again seen, soldiers enlisted and left home and friends.

In 1862 the women all over our land banded together as aid societies to care for soldier boys in camps, hospitals and

in the field, laying aside all usual avocations to give themselves to this work.

We gave our boys the U. S. flag, said good-byes with prayers and tears, and gathered day after day in our room in the Beebe Block so generously provided for us.

Not only soldiers, but the families were visited and cared for by committees appointed to seek the needy and the sick. One good woman's remark so often recurs to mind when it was said "That family comes too often for help." "Well, they are not 'faculised,' " for now we have such. This last year has shown the ready response of the women of the present time who gathered day after day to repeat the work of 1862 with a few of the veteran aid society, filling boxes and barrels with comforts for soldiers of 1897.

The township was organized October 20, 1819. The county was formed in 1822, taken from Cuyahoga, Huron, and Medina. At the same session of the Legislature a commission was appointed to locate the county seat. In February, 1823, after having visited Sheffield and Black River, Elyria was decided upon, and stakes were driven for location of Court House on the 14th of February, 1823.

Mr. Ely agreed to furnish suitable buildings for holding court and confinement of prisoners until county commissioners built permanent ones, and agreed to pay \$2,000 toward the erection of a new court house. A temporary court house, a one-story frame building, was erected on the corner of Cheapside and Main street, where Mr. Murbach's jewelery store stands. It was subsequently moved to a lot farther east on Main street, where Dr. Moysey's stable stands, and used for a meeting house, and later as a session room for Presbyterian church and private schools. When no longer needed for these it was moved to the rear of Snerer's for a work room. The fourth move was to Main, or Broad street, a second-story added, and was used as an implement store. It was burned in the destructive fire of 1893. A picture of

this historic building was presented to the Historical Society by Mr. I. A. Webster, the owner, and is in their rooms.

The jail was built on the back part of the public square, opposite Mrs. G. Brownell's. It was a two-story frame building, one part inside finished with hewed logs close together for confinement of prisoners, the other side for jailer. After the new stone jail was erected this building was removed to Third street and fitted up pleasantly for a dwelling house and occupied by many nice families; owned at this time by R. W. Pomeroy.

The first court held in Elyria was on the 24th of May, 1824. George Todd was the presiding judge, associates, Henry Brown, Moses Eldred, and Frederick Hamlin (grandfather of F. N. Smith of this town), Woolsey Wells was appointed prosecuting attorney, Ebenezer Whiton, clerk. The first sheriff was Josiah Harris, of North Amherst. The first license to solemnize marriage was granted to Rev. McGee, of Dover. The first license to marry a couple in this county was to Rev. D. W. Lathrop in September, 1827. The first criminal trial was in 1825. Two men were indicted and found guilty of stealing hogs and fined \$10 and costs. Since that time one person has been sent to the penitentiary for the same offense, showing the difference in the grade of crime of stealing shack, or Suffolk hogs.

The court house succeeding the little frame building was constructed of brick in the center of the square by Osias Long, of Peru, Huron county, who brought a number of mechanics with him, some of whom settled in Elyria, engaging in different occupations. This house was built in 1828 and was of red brick with a cupola for the bell. The court room was on the second floor and the county offices on the first floor. This court house was torn down and was replaced in 1880 and 1881 by the elegant stone building now in the park with fine offices on first floor and court room on the second floor, and rooms in the basement used by the Lorain



THE OLD COURT HOUSE

County Historical Society. The first court held in the new court house was in October, 1881, Judge Hale presiding. At present Judge Nye is filling this position satisfactorily. Many of our earlier judges reside and practice law in Cleveland, Judge Burke and Judge W. W. Boynton among the number.

The early settlers brought their religious customs with them from their New England homes. A log house for meetings was built in 1819 on the east side of the river on the top of the hill, which was very high at that time. It stood where Mr. Hobill's shop now stands. The settlers were punctual in attendance on Sunday. Mr. Ely read a sermon, Luther Lane and William Smith were the praying men. One morning when called upon to pray neither of these men responded. Mr. Ely, the leader, said, "Lane, pray there; pray quick; it's a good day to burn stumps." Calvin Smith led the singing, pitching the tunes with the tuning fork. Irene Allen, Mrs. Ely and Mrs. Beebe, who were members of the choir in Massachusetts, were the singers. Father Taylor, of Dover, preached occasionally. The first sermon preached in Elyria was in the log boarding house on the 5th of February, 1818, by Rev. Alvin Hyde. Text, Jonah 2d chapter and 9th verse, "Salvation is of the Lord."

Some of the young people attended religious meetings in Ridgeville held in the log school house at the Center. A large gathering of people assembled there, as the town was settled before Elyria. Deacon Joel Terrell and Samuel Eldred were the leaders of the meetings and Major Terrell led the singing, and hearty singing it was, too.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized in the log school house, November 25, 1824, with the following members:

Luther Lane,
Celia Ely,
Pamelia Beebe,

Hannah Brooks,
Hannah Johnson,
Irene Johnson,

Abby Lathrop,
William Smith,
Samuel Brooks,
Hezekiah Brooks,
Lydia Brooks.

Julia West,
Pearl Douglas,
Ann Palmer,
Pamelia Manter,
Sophia Brooks.

Eight of these were from Carlisle.

In 1825, Rev. Daniel W. Lathrop became the pastor of this infant church. He was sent by the Home Missionary Society of Long Island, partly supported by it, and the rest by the church. His first home was in a house built by Mr. Kingsbery, owned by Mr. Ransom Braman and removed to the alley in the rear to make room for his new home built recently. Rev. D. W. Lathrop and Mrs. Lathrop were delightful people, filled with Christian love and interest in the people they ministered to. Subsequently they built a home on a large plat of ground between East avenue and the river, later known as the Hoyle homestead, now occupied by fine residences. The Lathrop home was removed to make room for Mr. Frank Foster's elegant home recently. Very many pleasant and many sad things were associated with this first pastor of the church in Elyria. A row of little graves in the cemetery are marked Lathrop, and one among them, Mary, sixteen years of age, a beautiful girl. Over the window of her room on that spring morning when she died, a white rose filled the room with its sweet perfume, which was so beautifully written of by Mrs. Sigourney, the poetess, in a poem to the dear mother. The white roses from this tree bloom in many lawns, but who knows from whence they came? Mr. Lathrop's health failing, he resigned the pastorate of the church, but lived in his lovely home cultivating flowers and fruits for a number of years. He returned to his eastern home. Once during Rev. Williams' pastorate he assisted in the church worship. But Mr. and Mrs. Lathrop passed on, where are all their children, members of his flock, to whom he ministered in their last hours, and said the words of comfort at the grave in this his first charge and our first pastor.

In 1830, Rev. John J. Shipherd, a home missionary, ministered to the Presbyterian Church. He was a native of New York, and his friend, Mr. Stewart, was said to be the inventor of the Stewart cook stove. He came to visit Mr. Shipherd in 1832, who lived on the corner of Second street and East avenue in a house owned by Edwin Hall in later years and has been a home at various times for different ministers.

Mr. Shipherd and Mr. Stewart were anxious to arrange for a community where a college could be conducted to educate both sexes and the colored people. Many days and nights were spent in prayer in an upper chamber consulting the best plan. In a season of prayer Mr. Shipherd felt it was revealed to him. He said, "Come let us rise and build." On joining his wife he said, "The child is born, what shall its name be?" "It was Oberlin."

The first church erected in Elyria was Presbyterian and was dedicated on the 11th of February, 1834, for divine worship by the Presbytery of Cleveland, and at the same time Rev. James Eells was ordained and installed as pastor. The sermon on the morning of the dedication was delivered by Rev. J. Keep, of Cleveland, and the dedicatory prayer by Rev. A. H. Betts, of Brownhelm, a home missionary; right hand of fellowship by the Presbytery with address by Rev. John J. Shipherd; charge to the pastor, Rev. Keyes; to the the people, Rev. D. W. Lathrop; closing prayer, Rev. O. Eastman. This church was a large frame building with gallery for choir, composed of the young people of the congregation, the leader for a number of years, B. F. Robinson, accompanied with bass viol by Norman Crandal, and flute by Albert Ely, made very acceptable music. The pews were comfortably cushioned and occupied by families. Up to this time the men sat on one side of the house and the women on the other. Stoves burning wood and the pipes extending to the farther end where the chimneys were. Col-

lections were taken up in little green silk bags on the ends of poles which reached the farthest occupant of the pew. The church was on Second street and was large enough for the usual congregation, but when revival meetings, quite often held in early days, and when Professor Finney and others preached on the justice of God, the terrors of the law, giving thrilling descriptions of the punishment of sinners in the lake of fire and brimstone, the house was too small, and aisles and pulpit steps were filled. This church was occupied until the new one was built, then sold to Rev. Grosvenor, who fitted it up for a girls' school, and later made into a dwelling-house where Mrs. Grosvenor lived for years and died over ninety years of age. At present it is arranged and occupied as an Old Ladies' Home.

The beautiful Gothic stone church on the corner of Second street and Park was finished and dedicated on the 17th of May, 1848. The tall spire with its weather vane telling which way the wind blew, the sweet toned bell to call to worship, the clock to tell the true sun time, which, ringing out the hour was "all's well" at night, were some of the many outside attractions of this grand old church. Galleries were built on three sides, but the two north and south ones were removed later. One over the vestibule was used for organ and choir. The other end of the church was occupied by a finely carved pulpit where the minister could see, be seen and heard. It was the custom to turn and face the singers during the singing. Curtains of red repp were in front on wires to be drawn so only the faces were visible of the choir. This house cost twelve thousand five hundred eighty-eight dollars and seventy-five cents. Brooks Brothers of Elyria were the builders, who removed to Cleveland and are not living now. Great sacrifices were cheerfully made to build this church, "for the people had a mind to build." Doubtless they thought it a fine legacy for those coming after them and a monument to the fathers. For fifty years



FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

the stone church was such. How well filled were the pews! How we recall the occupants! How sacred the place with its pleasant memories and Christian influence! Rev. Mr. Grosvenor was pastor when the church was dedicated and for some time after; Rev. Wilbur for a number of years. For twenty-four years Rev. E. E. Williams was the beloved pastor. He died in 1896, mourned not only by his own church, but by the community.

John W. Hulburt is the only officer living who was such when the church was built. The church celebrated its golden wedding the 9th of December, 1874. Rev. Wilbur and Rev. Williams were in the pulpit and officiated.

A pleasant stone chapel was built adjoining the church and used for social meetings and societies, enlarged and re-furnished by the women of the church. Both of these sacred buildings were well overgrown with ivy. Women did not speak in meeting, for St. Paul said, "let your women keep silence in the churches." But a great privilege accorded them by the brethren was to earn the money to help build the church and repaint the steeple when needed, change windows for better ones, recarpet, put in gas fixtures and new cushions, all cheerfully done. They held their own prayer-meetings in their homes in early times, later in parlor of chapel. A Constitution for members in 1824 of the female prayer-meeting is in the possession of a daughter of one of the members. But a change has taken place in social meetings, for the women can, with full consent of the brethren, conduct and sustain religious meetings (though the men may not be there to hear).

In early times Sunday began at sundown Saturday night. All labor ceased; no stitches were taken. Clothes were arranged for Sunday morning, calf-skin shoes were oiled and set around the hearth to dry, as rubbers were not known; children could not go out to play until the sun had set. If persons ventured to go into the garden they were reminded that

in the Bible it was written, that when children mocked the Prophet Elijah and said, "Go up thou bald head," the bears ate them up, and it was just as wicked to break God's holy day, and the bears in the woods across the river could destroy the children the same way. Children went to church as a matter of course; were not asked if they would go. Sermons were long and they did not know what was preached, but the habit was good and the discipline good to sit still. Discipline was an essential part of children's education. Some good woman would bring dill or fenell and toss into the laps of little ones, which helped while away the long sermon time of an hour and a half. When the sun had set children would go out doors to play, neighbors visit each other, and to knit was all right, but at 8 o'clock would go home, for Monday came after Sunday, and it was an established washing day early in the morning. That "cleanliness was next to Godliness" was recognized one of the essentials. About 1840 many began keeping Sunday night and it soon became a general practice. Sunday schools were early organized in all Protestant churches and held between morning and afternoon service, as the second service was at 2 o'clock. Bible lessons were learned; one verse for each day in the week, was the custom, but optional to commit more. Children were familiar with the Bible, and could, when grown up, repeat much of this learned in Sunday-school. Sunday-school books did not come into use for a number of years.

The first sewing societies were held in ladies' homes and simple teas served, which all could easily provide. As sewing machines had not come into use, sewing by hand, quilting and knitting were the afternoon's employment. Later these gatherings were held in church parlors, which were equipped with sewing machines, kitchen and dining room conveniences. One gentleman in the Presbyterian church being asked if the ladies had better enlarge their chapel by

adding a kitchen, said: "If you are going to run your church society by a restaurant, you will need to." But this innovation did not interrupt the afternoons' usual benevolent work, for many faithful ones were ready to be interested in the different objects which were taken up from time to time. Aside from this was the cultivating of Christian interest in each other. It required no studied effort or organized arrangement to accomplish what should be work in this direction, but as a band of Christian women, recognized the obligation of each other and strove to promote the best interest of the whole with a Christian spirit and true benevolence. Looking after the poor of the town was felt to be one of the great duties of Christian women.

Maternal associations were one of the early religious social gatherings of women. The special object was the training of children in the families, of mothers especially, in counseling young mothers and interesting them in their duties and responsibilities.

Thursday evening was the mid-week prayer-meeting, and continues to be in all Protestant churches. One early and long continued custom was a preparatory meeting Friday afternoon before the communion service on the following Sunday once in two months. The chapel of the Congregational church would be crowded. Later, Thursday evening was given up to the preparatory service with the same result.

In 1824 a class composed of the following persons was organized to form a Methodist church: Hiram Emmons and wife, Heber Seekins and wife, Clark Eldred and wife, and George Gilbert and wife. At first they met in private houses. Later on, being invited by the Presbyterians, they used their session room afternoons for a time and then rented the yellow school house. They erected a frame building on Second street for a church until 1850, when they built a brick church near the frame one, which was sold and made into a dwelling house, now owned and occupied by

S. B. Day. In 1881 the fine brick church was built on the park, with handsome windows, a fine toned bell and all modern conveniences inside, now deemed essential to all modern churches.

In 1831 the Methodists built the first parsonage in town, but later sold it and built a fine modern house next the original on East avenue adjoining the Congregational parsonage. They both drank from the same well. All churches deemed it a duty to provide the pastor's home free.

The first Baptist church was built of brick in 1839, on the corner of Second street and the park with a cupola for a triangle to call to worship. There were two doors to the vestibule, and over them was painted "Seats free." The congregation went to the river for baptisms where the Fourth street bridge is. The old church was torn down in 1883, and a large modern church was erected, with a large Sunday school room to be opened into the main room if needed; kitchen and dining room in the basement, with all conveniences. Two sets of stone steps lead to the entrances of this fine modern church, which is largely indebted to Mrs. Parks Foster and other women who were indefatigable in securing the means to build it. Rev. Knapp is the pastor.

St. Andrew's Church was organized in 1837 by Rev. Anson Clark with the following members: Orrin Cowles and wife, Erastus Hall and wife, E. H. Leonard and wife, Chauncey Prindle and wife of Carlisle. The first meetings were held at Orrin Cowles' in 1839. The first church, a frame building, was erected on the park near where Eady's drug-store is and cost fifteen hundred dollars. While soliciting subscriptions to build the church, one of our citizens, who claimed not to believe in them, was asked to contribute, said, "Yes, for that church takes less running-gear than the others." It did not prove so, for it was a struggle for years to sustain it, and it was for a time suspended. As the town grew it shared with others in the prosperity. The frame

building was removed to Third street and occupied until 1872, when, having completed the fine stone church on the park (largely due to Rev. Noakes, the rector) the congregation removed to it, having sold the church on Third street to the German Evangelical Church for two thousand and fifty dollars. The inside of the Episcopal church has been beautifully frescoed within a short time, gifts as memorials of deceased members have been made and the church, with the parsonage adjoining, is a great addition to the appearance of the street. The bell is historic, as it was the court house bell. It used to ring for justice, now for love and mercy. Rev. Craft is the present rector.

The Evangelical (St. Paul's) Church having purchased the frame building of the Episcopalians, enlarged it, put in better windows, fitted it inside and out and made it a pleasant place of worship for the large congregation which fills it.

St. John's Evangelical Church was organized before the church was built. Services were held in the Presbyterian church and other available places. A frame building was erected on the corner of Main street and West avenue, costing \$1,500, and was dedicated March, 1868. It was subsequently removed back for a parochial school. The new fine brick church was erected on the place where the first one was built, and is an ornament to the town and a credit to the congregation which is large and prosperous.

The Disciple Church was formed in 1832, but struggled for some time to sustain itself, but within a few years have occupied the Methodist church, which they rebuilt in 1898, making it among the others in town, very attractive and one of the leading churches, with a zealous membership untiring in sustaining the growth and spirituality of its membership.

The Roman Catholic Church was established in 1852 by Father Healy, who purchased a lot on the corner of Fourth street and Middle avenue, built a large frame building and a parsonage adjoining. The yellow school house from west side

of park was removed to the east side of Middle avenue and used for school purposes until removed to be replaced by the fine brick edifice. It has a fine chime of bells in its tower. The bell is rung morning, noon and night, giving sun time (Father Schaffield says). Fathers Healy and Molon were interred under the first church. The old church is used for parochial school. Two prominent families in the formation of the Catholic Church were Mr. Cavitt and Mr. Flood. It has been very difficult to get dates for this and other churches.

In 1819, which was as soon as needed, a school was organized in a log school house on the hill, east side. Irene Allen, Pamela Manter, and others taught these schools, all of whom took a school of one in a short time. Later on a school was taught in a small frame building, which stands on Mrs. Monroe's land near the railroad and is used as a dwelling at this time, having been enlarged and fitted up. At the time this school was there, which was 1825, a stream or creek came down through the lots on East avenue, making in front quite a place for playing at recess. One of the little girls who went to school for the first time one morning, at recess decided to go home, which was an unfortunate step, as a big girl was sent to bring her back and she was spanked, which is still an unforgiven thing. A school for girls was taught in the session room by Mary Green, later the wife of Thompson Miles, one of the pioneer merchants, who lived where Mrs. Monroe now lives on Broad street. He built the store on the corner east. None of the family are left; three of the girls are in California.

In 1827 a two-story frame building called Yellow School House, probably named for its color, was built and stood where the opera house now stands. Judge Ely donated the land, one hundred and thirty-five dollars and controlled the second story. The rest of the expense was raised by tax and called District School. Male teachers were employed, as severe discipline was considered necessary in a mixed



WINTER SCENE—EAST FALLS

school of girls and boys. A ruler, long switches from nearby bushes, and other means to punish the unruly, were furnished. Dr. Griswold, Edward Hamlin, and Albert Harris (long identified with the *Cleveland Herald*), men who were prominent in professional life, were teachers at different times in the old yellow school house.

The building for the Elyria high school was built by Mr. Ely in 1831 and leased to trustees for a term of years. It stood on large grounds where Mr. Ensign's barn is and was a large building with two stories, assembly and recitation rooms on both floors, with a cupola for bell to ring for attendance. It was well fitted with seats and desks, very pleasant and comfortable. It was a very popular school as the higher branches were taught. Rev. John Monteith, with his wife, were the first teachers to take charge of the school. Among the pupils was President James H. Fairchild of Oberlin, and his brother, president of Berea College, Kentucky, were partly prepared for college in Elyria high schools. The annual examinations of the Elyria high school were occasions which attracted much attention, and continued two days. There were some eighty pupils—girls and boys of different ages. The occasions drew crowds of parents and friends from town and neighboring townships. Examinations were in Latin, mathematics and chemistry. The first day after a session of examination in studies, the girls read compositions and the boys declaimed, Cicero like. The court house where these evening entertainments were given would be crowded. The exercises were enlivened by the band. It was not expected that all the girls wore expensive white dresses on this occasion, but French calico, costing fifty cents a yard, or a black silk, possibly an heirloom, was admittable. Calicoes were expensive, costing twenty-five cents for goods which can be bought now for six and eight cents, but the quality was much better and appearance the same—good enough for ordinary dress. Pupils from Cleveland, Warren and

other towns were attendants at this flourishing school. It was a custom among the girls to have autograph albums for the signature of schoolmates. One very complimentary one is still in mind and page:

"Joseph Perkins is my name,
Columbia is my nation;
Warren my native place,
Albums my detestation."

In 1837, or the next year, Mr. Monteith built a large frame house on East avenue for a young ladies' boarding school, which was well patronized by residents and foreign pupils; very many from Cleveland, as well as country towns about Elyria. Mr. Monteith was an Abolitionist, which was unpopular in those days, but it did not deter him from using his influence for anti-slavery. On the mantle shelf in the library was a metal safety bank with a slave on it running for life and liberty and all could contribute to help him on to freedom. Mr. Monteith was a Presbyterian minister and occasionally preached in towns near by. One Sunday evening he was mobbed in Ridgeville and was with difficulty removed from the meeting house by his friends, who helped him escape through a window, where a horse was furnished him. The Monteith home was purchased by Nathan B. Gates, who was the model mayor of Elyria, and held the office for years. His wife was the eldest daughter of Mr. Monteith. William, one of the sons of Mr. Gates, owns this home and keeps it up in an attractive manner; pleasant to see by those who enjoyed the friendship and hospitality of the fathers while there was bitter feeling and strife in communities on the anti-slavery question in this county, to the division of some of the neighboring churches. With us it had many sympathizers and underground railroads in many directions. An incident of personal knowledge will be given: A family of slaves, man and wife and two children, having escaped from the South, reached Black River on their



THE GORGE AT THE JUNCTION

way to Canada, were arrested by a citizen, brought to Elyria, taken before Judge Long and defended by Edward Hamlin, who became a prominent lawyer and member of Congress in later years. He, knowing a young man, an Abolitionist, who had just come to town, asked him if he could dispose of these slaves. This young man knowing S. W. Baldwin and his sentiments, asked him if he had a team of horses. Yes! in my stable; but don't you touch them (with a peculiar expression). But he went to the stable, harnessed them into a lumber wagon with straw in the bottom. Mr. Hamlin brought the fugitives to the street, pointed to the wagon and they jumped in and covered themselves with the straw and were driven to an underground railroad by a young student. No questions were asked, no directions were given, for one helping slaves to escape was liable to be fined and imprisoned, as was demonstrated in our own county in later years, and the prejudice was so great that colored people were not welcomed to pews in a church.

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In 1832, the Fourth of July was celebrated in Elyria. The country people came with flags and music (the girls with wreaths on their heads) making long processions, who gathered at the square. Exercises were opened with prayer, the Declaration of Independence was read, then a discussion between Abolitionists and colonists, as this was about the time the latter was urged as the remedy for African slavery in the United States. Feeling ran high, as was evidenced by claps and hisses of the different speakers.

In 1838, one school worthy of mention with other private schools which from time to time were established, was one by Joel Tiffany, in a house called Franklin Hotel, moved from Main street (where the Central shoe-store is) to the ground occupied at present by the freight depot. Mr. Tiffany used the first floor as a dwelling, the second as a school-room. He advertised a new method of instruction,

not necessitating the learning of rules in arithmetic and grammar. As pupils progressed, the rules would suggest themselves. In the morning he gave a lecture on the studies of the day. Over sixty young people from fifteen to twenty-two years of age attended, many from towns about—some working for their board in families to be able to attend this school. The writer is not able to give the result of this method of education.

The first newspaper published in Elyria was the Lorain Gazette, in 1829, by A. S. Park, who came from Ashtabula, Ohio. The office was a one-story frame building. It stood on Main street, where Mr. Buckhold's residence is. Frederick Whittelsey was the first editor. He was a prominent lawyer and moved to Cleveland in 1854. Mr. Park published various papers until 1834, when he retired to his home on East River street, where he busied himself raising small fruits. He lived to a good old age.

Henry Park, for years a prominent druggist, at present city clerk, is the only son living in Elyria. In 1830 Abraham Burrell came to Elyria and worked in the Gazette office as printer; subsequently in various newspaper offices in town. Was the veteran printer of Lorain county. He died November, 1868. None of his descendants known are here.

The first type set in Elyria was by Calvin Hall, a lad sixteen years of age, who came with Mr. Park.

We have had many newspapers, of both parties, but George G. Washburn was for forty-two years engaged in publishing the leading Republican paper of Lorain county. He was born in Orange, N. H., in 1821; came to Ohio, when eleven years of age, with his father's family. In 1835 he settled in Camden, O., where he acquired a common education, enough to teach, which he did for a time, then took a four-years' course in Oberlin College, when he removed to Elyria to read law, but soon abandoned it and assumed the publication of the Elyria Republican, which, as sole propri-

etor, editor, and manager, he ably conducted, advocating the anti-slavery cause. He was fearless in expressing his sentiments, and in the war of the Rebellion he served as secretary of the military organization of Lorain county, and visited battle-fields to aid in caring for the wounded. He was elected and served as Representative in the Ohio General Assembly four years. For thirty-four years he was one of the directors of the National Bank, and was one of the Board of Managers of the Ohio State Reformatory, which office he held until his death, June 8, 1898—a work in which he was zealously interested. He filled many other places of trust, always striving to act honestly and for the good of all. As a friend he was true, genial, and sympathetic; as a citizen, doing and giving his influence for the prosperity of Elyria morally. A text he often quoted as his religious creed was, "Pure religion and undefiled before God, the Father, is to visit the fatherless and widow in their affliction, and keep himself unspotted from the world." He was an active member of the Lorain County Historical Society. As a member of the Board from its organization he was devoted to its growth and prosperity, always present at its meetings when able. He is missed, but his memory is cherished by the members of this society.

F. S. Reefy was born near Bienne, Switzerland, but came to the United States with his parents when a child. He was fond of books and study in English and German. He became a successful teacher and the head of a seminary in Indiana. He came to Elyria in 1872, and became editor and proprietor of the *Elyria Constitution*, and has continued to publish the Democratic paper (now the *Elyria Democrat*). He is fearless and decided in his political preferences, just and honest in criticisms of town affairs. A strong advocate of temperance, and such measures as will promote the cause. Was postmaster two terms under the administration of President Cleveland.

The first drug store was opened in 1832 by John Matson, in the front room of his dwelling, which stood where Mr. Andress' harness store is. He sold out to John Wooster in 1840, who moved across the street to a story and a half frame building. W. F. Wooster was partner with his brother John; three years later he purchased his interest and carried on the business. The little frame building was well filled. One side was the drug store; the other front room, boots and shoes, by A. Conger, and the post-office in a corner of the room. George Chapman was postmaster. The front room up stairs was occupied by Joel Tiffany, a lawyer widely known. The second room back was the Democrat office—Tenney, publisher.

Mr. William Wooster removed the frame building and occupied it until he had erected the fine stone building he still occupies as a drug store, on the spot he began the drug business, and to which he has devoted his time and strength for more than fifty-six years. None who began in 1840 are in business by his side.

The old frame building was used for years as a meat market. In 1897 it was torn down, to be replaced by a three-story brick block by John Lersch for a dry-goods house.

The Town Hall was erected in 1857, and cost \$29,000. It has been added to, increasing the auditorium and dressing-rooms. The lower floor has been used for fire department, Mayor's office, and city prison. The present Mayor is Dr. P. D. Reefy, elected by Republicans in 1899. Orrin Cowles was the first Mayor of Elyria.

The square has grown to be a fine park, with fountains and walks, beds of flowers in summer, and seats for tired people which are usually well filled. In the evening crowds listen to the band.

The first fire company was a volunteer company of citizens in 1839. S. W. Baldwin was the foreman. Samuel Goodwin was secretary and treasurer, who with his brother



EAST FALLS — BLACK RIVER

Caleb had the first cabinet shop and built the brick house on Broad street still known as the Goodwin house. A small fire-engine was purchased. It had to be taken to the river often, to soak the wooden box and be ready for fires. In 1850 another one was purchased and thought to be sufficient, until after the fearful fire of 1873—a steam fire-engine and hose carts, and fire companies in different districts, with all equipments necessary, were organized. The first engine is kept in the engine-room—a great contrast with the reliable steam fire-engine standing near it. Cisterns were dug in different parts of town, and utilized until the present water system was instituted, when the cisterns were filled up with dirt and abandoned. But it has seemed at times, when the river “gave out,” that it would be convenient to find them ready filled with water. Those of us who witnessed the great fire of March 17, 1873, can never forget it, and coming so soon after the Chicago fire, filled us with fearful apprehension, for the terrible gale carried fire far and near. Burned books from the Ely library were carried on to the east side. Families along Broad street packed their valuables, ready to move. Ely Block, with stores in first floor, and the many business places, were all destroyed. Much of public interest was also lost. On the second floor the Natural History Society had furnished rooms in 1844, filled with glass cases for curios; seats arranged for 300; desk for speaker. Lectures were given for a number of years by residents, and occasionally some noted speaker from abroad. The lectures were well attended by all classes, and maintained the good reputation Elyrians always had as intelligent, cultured people. These early literary influences did much to educate and cultivate the young people of Elyria, who have filled honorable places at home; and we have contributed no small number to Cleveland of our young men, and take great pleasure as we recount them. Among these lecturers was Dr. Townshend, a young man

who studied with Dr. Howard, a physician, and who fitted himself in various medical schools, and by foreign travel, to take a high place in his profession. He was particularly pleasing as a speaker. During his life, which has only recently closed (in 1895), he was devoted largely to the education of young men in Columbus, O. In his frequent visits to his early home he was warmly welcomed, and mourned by many when the sad news came that he had gone. Mary, wife of Patrick Henry Boynton, is the only representative with us of Dr. Townshend.

In 1825, twenty-five houses had been erected on Main street from east to west. The question is often asked, Why were the first houses built on the street? It was one of the requirements when a lot was sold, probably in anticipation of the coming city. Among those who built at this date was Deacon Lane, who came with Mr. Ely in 1817,—going back and forth to his early home. He married Ann Cooley, a teacher in West Springfield, Mass., in 1826, and occupied his home on the corner of Cedar and Main streets. They had no children, but adopted a number. He owned the Eagle Mills for a time, and a farm on Cleveland street. He was one of the organizers of the Presbyterian church, and deacon, which office he held during his life. His wife died previous to his death in 1868. These people were Christian in life's practice, honored by all who knew them, their memories cherished by the few left who enjoyed and realized their worth.

Reuben Nichols, one of the early pioneers of Elyria, came from Derby, New Hampshire, in 1828. He purchased a frame building known as the Eagle Hotel, built by George Douglas. At the end of two years, having prospered, in his business, he removed the old building and erected a large fine two story brick building with broad verandas across the front of both stories with large columns and high stone steps to the entrance. It was the finest building in



BEEBE HOUSE AND COURT STREET

town and called the Mansion House. In 1839 he sold the hotel and moved to Oberlin to educate his children. In 1842 he returned and located on a pleasant farm west of Elyria and died in 1871, aged 84 years. He was a just, honest and upright man. He left an only son, George, who was nine years of age when the family came to Elyria. He was active and interested in the growth and prosperity of the town, was postmaster under Franklin Pierce and engaged in mercantile business, largely in real estate, died July 5th, 1898, nearly seventy years of age, mourned by a large circle of friends.

It was the custom in early times in political gatherings to have long processions from the country come in farm wagons carrying flags, girls in white representing different states in the Union, and there was martial music. These gatherings were entertained in the park at long tables, loaded with good things to eat, sometimes a barbecue of roasted ox on the bank of East river, near the foot of Main street. Speeches were delivered by prominent men on various topics as the times demanded.

In 1838 the Elyria brass band was organized by young business men of Elyria. Samuel Goodwin was the leader and the political gatherings were made very attractive by the music of the band which was finely rendered. In 1840 they went to Fort Meigs in the Harrison campaign, called the "Log Cabin and Hard Cider campaign." The boys went in their own band wagon, manufactured in the carriage factory of Owens & Beebe, which stood where Odd Fellows block now is. A silk flag was made by the ladies of the town at Mrs. Dr. Manter's and presented to the band, on their departure. On one side in blue silk a wreath of Buckeyes and instruments embroidered in the center. On the other side was a large eagle in white silk. The silk tassels were presented by Mrs. Judge Ely, who raised the cocoons in the silk house on the Gulf road.

None of the band of fourteen are known to be living, save Edwin Hall. Some of the instruments are in the historical rooms. The silk flag, worn and faded, is a sad reminder of the good times of early days, and is with other relics in these rooms, and the sad thought comes to one who wrought on it in younger days, that she alone is left to record this story. And just now the house is being removed to a distant part of the town, in which we gathered for the pleasant work at Dr. Manter's.

Edmund West opened the first store in Elyria in a small frame building, on the corner of Cedar and Main. In 1823 a store was established by Stanton Sholes in the building now owned by Mr. Monroe. It was soon sold to Thompson Miles. The early merchants carried everything. Dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, cloaks, straw bonnets, and took butter, dried apples and peaches in exchange. Butter was eight cents a pound, eggs four cents a dozen. The hens had not heard of trusts at that time, making eggs worth twenty-five, forty or fifty cents a dozen. At one time Elyria was a great market for wool, the streets were so full of wagons loaded with it that it was difficult to drive through. Large quantities of dried apples were shipped to different parts of the country. W. B. Ingersoll, clock and watch maker, D. C. White, watch maker and dentist, Anor Scott, hats, Wm. Hoyle, merchant tailor, Dr. DeWitt, secretary of the Junction Railroad Company, and S. Bagg, secretary of the Plank Road Company. Among the early merchants, and the longest in business was Seymour W. Baldwin, who came from Meriden, Connecticut, in 1835, and in partnership with Orrin Cowles, his fellow townsman of Meriden, opened a store in the Ely Block. Mr. Baldwin was associated with a number of young men, some of whom were trained in his employ. He was always personally interested in all such in a special manner. All so far as known became upright, moral and successful business men.

In 1841, Mr. Baldwin formed a partnership with Thomas L. Nelson and Thomas Laundon, having been associated with George and Horace Starr, for some time previous. This firm continued together until 1852, when Mr. Baldwin retired, but in 1855 again associated with Starr Bros. In 1868, having dissolved partnership with Starrs and with Laundon and Nelson he purchased the goods of Henry E. Mussey and took possession of the "Old Fortress," and continued until 1870, when Mr. Baldwin retired to a more quiet life, furnishing capital for various enterprises, prominent among them was the organization of the first bank in Lorain county, established in 1847, of which he was a stockholder and director. During his life, Mr. Baldwin built a fine brick house surrounded with large grounds, on the corner of the Public Square and Third street and was specially fond of cultivating fruit and flowers. He was an active member of the M. E. Church, a very generous contributor to its support and in the erection of the fine modern church. Mr. Baldwin died in 1891, leaving four sons; Hon. D. C. is the only representative of this prominent merchant in Elyria. He was associated with his father in business, but has retired to private life at his own home, filling his time in traveling and study. He has represented this county in the legislature twice. Judge C. C., the eldest son, died in Cleveland recently. The other sons are East.

H. K. Kendall came from Suffield, Conn., in 1832. He opened a store in a brick building on the corner of the square and Main street. One side was a dwelling and the approach to the store was by high steps. This building was erected by Sylvanus Parmely, who sold to Mr. Beebe, who removed it to build the Beebe House. Mr. Kendall was the first to establish the cash system in town. All other merchants had sold on credit. All his goods were marked at a low figure which advertised him far and near, drawing trade from other counties. In a year or two he built the brick

store on north side of Main street and known for years as the "Old Fortress." Mr. Kendall was a ready talker and had a great deal of dash; also a good salesman. H. E. Mussey, a brother-in-law, was associated with him in the sale of dry goods in 1842. Mr. Kendall died in 1855, only forty-one years of age. He was the moving spirit in building the First Baptist Church. He also built a fine home where the Methodist Church stands. It was a two-story frame house, wide veranda in front with large cornice and Corinthian pillars and a wing on each side. The grounds were fine, including the land now occupied by the Episcopal Church and parsonage. All between the avenue and house east and on the west, Dr. Reefy's and Professor Reefy's homes, beds of flowers filled the garden and divided by box so commonly used at that time. Russell Penfield owned the house later, and it was destroyed by fire. Mr. Penfield bought the place of Albert Bliss. We will here mention the only other houses with these Corinthian pillars: The Starr house on Broad street, erected by Theodore Ely, a nephew of Judge Ely; a fine cottage built by Judge Long and stood where W. F. Wooster's home is, destroyed by fire; Mansion House, burned in 1857; a large house which stood near Mr. Mapes', was rebuilt.

The physicians in Elyria were, first, Dr. J. A. Butler, who came in 1819, a graduate of Fairfield Medical College, New York. His home for some time was on the corner of East avenue and Main street, a two-story frame house, painted white as most houses were at that time. He was a faithful physician, devoted to his profession. He died in Ridgeville in 1858.

Dr. Wolcott came in 1819, a graduate of the same school, and was a successful practitioner. He died in 1845 in Sheffield.

Dr. Nathan Manter came to Elyria in 1824. He was of the same school for thirty years, but finally took up homeopathy, which he practiced until his death in 1866.

Dr. Samuel Strong came to Elyria in 1833 and was partner with Dr. Manter the first year of his residence here. He was untiring in his practice, and very zealous, watching day and night by the sick, inspiring them with hope and effort to live. He built the brick house on park and Third street, now owned by Mr. Frank Townsend, which was considered remarkable for its inside finish of carved panels in black walnut doors, mouldings and staircase. Dr. Samuel Strong died in 1850, forty-four years of age. Mrs. Edwin Mussey is the only descendant. The son, Samuel, of Cleveland, died a sudden, distressing death by accidental burning in his own home a few years since.

The early physicians carried their medicines in leather saddle bags, in bottles, as they had to do much of their practicing on horseback. Bleeding was a common practice and resorted to in almost any case of sickness by some, and a great test in a family of children who should be quickest to avoid holding the bowl by running to hide.

Elyria has been considered a healthy town, has not suffered from any epidemic that other cities have. When cholera was so prevalent we had none. Many physicians have located among us and seemed to thrive. Among those who have died recently, and are missed and mourned are Dr. Edwin Perry and Dr. W. F. McLean.

In 1850, Union Schools were established in school houses in different parts of town, but now large fine stone and brick buildings filling the ground from Middle to West Avenue, and large brick buildings on the east and west side are necessary to accommodate the children of Elyria. The graduates fill prominent places in our own and other lands. Mr. H. M. Parker has for years retained his fine reputation as superintendent, and with pride welcomes to Elyria these his early pupils.

For nearly fifty years, John H. Boynton, who died in August, 1899, was an active business man in Elyria. He was

elected sheriff of Lorain county. He removed from Russia township and for two terms held this office. In 1856 he was elected County Treasurer and served for two years, and twelve years later was elected again as Treasurer and held the office for four years. His whole life after removing to Elyria was identified with the Republican party. He was called the "Wheel Horse." Was two different times Mayor of the city. He, for a term of years, held a leading position as insurance agent of standard companies. In all his dealings he was an honest man. His great object in life was to serve his country and promote the welfare of all. He was a cheerful man, ready with smile and cordial greeting to meet men. His children in Elyria are P. H. Boynton and Mrs. James Dake.

Joshua Henshaw was the first surveyor in Elyria. Others we are unable to trace, with two or three exceptions. Joseph Swift filled the office for a term. Mr. Cole, who was drowned in fording Black river in Sheffield, John H. Faxon served as county surveyor for a number of years. He was elected two terms to the General Assembly—was Justice of the Peace in Elyria for over twenty years. He discharged all the duties of the offices he held with ability, was genial in his association with men, decided in his opinions. He was an honored member of the Odd Fellows. He died leaving a widow, aged eighty-three years, who followed him quite recently, one daughter and three sons, all business men in Elyria.

In March, 1870, the subject of woman's suffrage came up for discussion in the Ohio Legislature, and the following protest was drawn up in Oberlin, and signed by prominent women and circulated in Elyria.

1st. We acknowledge no inferiority to man. We claim no less ability to perform the duties God imposed upon us, than they have to perform the duties imposed upon them, we feel our present duties fill up our full time and ability.



VIOLET ISLAND

2d. It is our fathers and brothers who love us, our husbands our choice, our sons what we make them. We are content that they represent us in the corn field, battlefield and ballot box. We represent them at the fireside, cradle and school room. We therefore respectfully protest against any legislation to establish woman's suffrage in our own or any part of our land. (This protest may not have been circulated in some of the Western states, where the women do vote now.)

A temperance tidal wave struck Elyria in the seventies, in a crusade instituted by the women. Prayer meetings were held in the chapel and on the streets. After prayers a singing band of women would visit and labor with saloon-keepers. If admittance was not obtained to the saloon, services were held on the sidewalk, or street in front. If received and responded to favorably, a beer keg was rolled into the street and emptied. A prominent woman would mount it and make a temperance address and lead in prayer, and all join in singing. This movement resulted in the organization of the W. C. T. U., which has accomplished much good in introducing temperance literature in schools and has brought women to the front, even those who signed the protest (originated at Oberlin) have been active in trying to influence the election of women on school boards, a very proper thing to do for women whose care of the children at home are qualified to suggest methods of training even better than men.

In 1888-1889, reading rooms were fitted up and sustained for a time where boys would spend their evenings, but the project was absorbed by a Young Men's Christian Association. It was in the Topliff Block for some three years, and a great deal of interest was manifested in it by many, and it was successful for a time until the building was torn down to make room for Hotel Topliff and the Y. M. C. A. project was abandoned.

We always had followers in town of everything prevailing. Millerites dressed in white anxiously looking for the end of the world. Bloomers adopted by reformers were specially conspicuous for a time, with a limited number of clairvoyants, who when E. & E. Hall's store was robbed, pointed out the location of the goods in a barn and unraveled many mysteries.

The bank called Lorain Bank, was established in 1847 in Beebe Block, next to the corner of park and Broad street, the same location at present occupied by Lorain County Banking Company recently established. This was the first in the county. Mr. Adair, of Pittsburg, was the first cashier. In 1849 he resigned to go to California and sailed on the Eureka, a vessel fitted out in Cleveland to go around the Horn. A number of Elyria people were fellow passengers. Mr. John Finn, Sr., father of John Finn, was then chosen cashier. He resigned in 1856 and John W. Hulburt was elected and continued associated with the bank until his health failed. He is the only one living connected with the first bank. In 1865 the bank was removed to its present location.

The Savings Deposit Bank was organized in 1873 in its present location, but has been enlarged and improved.

T. L. Nelson came from Lyme, N. H., when a young man, and obtained a position in Mr. Baldwin's store in Ely Block. After a number of years he was connected with the store, the firm Baldwin, Laundon & Co., for fifteen years. In 1872, with J. C. Hill and others, organized the Savings Deposit Bank, of which he was president, which office he held up to his last sickness and death on February 21st, 1891. For over thirty years he was an active and devoted member of the Congregational Church, benevolent and liberal in all good work in the church and the town. His death was deplored, his influence missed in the community and in social life. His only daughter with us is Mrs. Mary Garford, of

the three left at his death. Mrs. Frances Nelson, widow, occupies the home.

Mr. J. C. Hill assumed the duties of president of the Savings Bank at Mr. Nelson's death, which position he still holds.

For the public library Elyria is indebted to Charles Arthur Ely, youngest son of Judge Ely, who was born May 2d, 1829. His mother was Harriet Salter. His early life was spent in Elyria in school and in various mechanical establishments for which he had decided taste. In 1850 he married Louise C. Foot of Cleveland, who was a loving wife and sympathizer in the many years of his ill health, and in the establishment of the library in the Ely block in 1870, which contained at the time of its destruction by fire four thousand volumes, only one hundred and seventy were saved. From the insurance and other sources the present fine library was opened to the public in May, 1874. The lovely home on Washington Avenue was built by Mrs. Ely after Mr. Ely's death in 1864, and the approaches to this home and the scenery on the river were made accessible to visitors by paths and steps of her arranging. At Mrs. Ely's death she left one son, William, who occupies the homestead.

The first street-lighting was with lamps on the corners of some of the most prominent streets. A man with a peculiar rig and horse went around in the mornings and trimmed the lamps, at dark went around and lighted them, at midnight put them out. Gasoline was substituted for oil until gas was introduced. In homes lard oil was used instead of candles, which was an uncertain light, depending on the temperature of the room, to burn or not, and when coal oil was introduced it was used with fear and trembling. S. B. Wolcott gave the first exhibition of it in a small upright lamp in 1873, at the house of a friend who had a tea party of ladies and gentlemen (common social gatherings in early days). The lamp was placed on the mantle, oil black as

ink and with an odor new to all, and was viewed by the party something like a bomb, liable to explode.

Among the notable things worthy to be mentioned is the big sleigh ride of January 22d, 1877, arranged by Mr. John Houghton, who was running a livery stable. The sleighing had been fine for fifty days and he determined to give the ladies a ride. Mr. Houghton headed the procession with a fine four-horse rig, followed by the pastors of the churches, the Elyria band, more teams and the Grafton band. In all there were eight four-horse teams, twenty-eight two-horse teams, twenty-four single sleighs—sixty sleighs in all—carrying nine hundred people. The sleighs were decked with flags and banners. The ride was out Middle avenue to Carlisle Center and Laporte and home by West avenue. No such ride has been had since. One in the fifties is still pleasantly remembered. It was a sleigh ride to Cleveland on a clear cold day twenty below zero. The party stopped at the American House which was heated by grates. The only mishap that occurred during the ride, Charley Bartlett froze his ears. The married folks had a good time.

The manufactories of Elyria have been from its beginning established. The grist and saw mill at East Main street. The first was a large tannery, for years operated where the canning and stocking factories are at present. It made a market for various barks from the woods about the country. A grist mill over East Falls known as the Old Red Mill, was operated for years, injured as other mills and bridges were by severe floods. At last this mill was so badly wrecked as to be abandoned and a fine large new one erected on the site of the old one, with improved methods of operating.

A carding, woolen and fulling mill was for many years operated in which dyeing silk was done, and watered like Moirè silk. This factory stood where the Topliff & Ely works are at present.

In 1832 the Lorain Iron Company was established. On



• ELY PARK

the west side was a flourishing foundry and quite a village was built up, called The Furnace Ground, approached by Lodi street. A store was operated in connection with this foundry, corner of Mill and Main streets, in Ely Block, but bog ore was not rich in iron and the business was abandoned. If a vestige of this once prosperous business is left it is in pieces of scrap iron scattered on the river bank. Pretty homes fill the spot which the first electric road passes through to Steel Plant. We have sash and blind factories, planing mills, soap factories with products rivaling the present extensively advertised soaps, sewing machines, West & Wilson make, which was extensively used, shears, screw and tap factory on the west side, employing a large number of men, bow and socket works, full leaf sewing tables, indispensable to house-keepers, the Garford saddle works, tricycle works, electric light and bottling works, make up a large industrial force, and the numerous men and boys on wheels and on foot passing to and fro from country and town, with the lighted windows at night are proof of the success of these great industries. The location of the steel plant so near Elyria has added very materially to the business and population of Elyria.

To run many of the early factories many dams had to be erected to utilize the water in Black river, before steam came into use. Some five or six were made in different locations. The one near Topliff and Ely's was originally like all others made of wood, but destroyed by a flood, a new one of stone and wood of peculiar construction was built circular at the ends. When the water was at a certain stage it produced a throbbing motion, jarring windows in the Beebe House, on the Park, disturbing guests at night by the shaking motion. None of these dams are left, except the one at the east end of Main street, below where the first one was built. There are six bridges spanning the river in the corporation, four wooden ones have been replaced with

iron and stone. The first Point bridge was a wooden one built by Mr. Heman Ely, to open up that part of the town. In 1864, or the next year, a portion of it fell and a wagon and team of horses loaded with bags of wheat and two men fell to the rocks below, one horse was killed, but the men were not seriously hurt. The bridge had been severely taxed, as all eastern travel was over it on account of the East Main street bridge being rebuilt. One bridge on West Main street was covered and the only one in town. The first house built on Evergreen Point was by Levi Morse, lately deceased, owned and occupied by Judge Nye. Abel Goodspeed built and occupied the house now owned and occupied by T. L. Nelson and family; this was built before the bridge was.

Much is said and published of bad roads in and around Elyria; we can congratulate ourselves on the great improvements made and being made in the roads. To come from Grafton to Elyria necessitated a night in the town. And in early times Mr. Ely kept a yoke of oxen ready to help any who were fast in the mud holes coming to town.

A bridal party of two couples came from Grafton to Elyria on a wedding trip in a two seated spring wagon drawn by a span of horses. The ladies were clad in light silks. Near where Fourth street crosses East avenue they drove into and upset in one of the bottomless mud holes. On their arrival at the tavern the silk dresses had to be rinsed in tubs of water. Mud holes it seemed were short cuts to China.

In making the first sidewalks stringers were laid lengthwise and boards four feet wide nailed across. The first cross walks were made of two square pieces of timber laid across from the Beebe House to the north side of the street, replaced later with stone cross-walks, when Dr. P. W. Sampsell was mayor, and others were soon laid on the street crossings. Stone side walks have long since been substituted for

the cheap wooden affairs, which were so acceptable in our muddy streets in early days.

We have been surrounded with stone, and various quarries opened making it easy to pave the streets. The first paving was done by William O. Cahoon, who owned the first stone quarry and laid the first paving in Elyria, and the foundations for many of the early homes. Mr. Cahoon was a leading member of the M. E. Church; he died in 1878, aged seventy-two years, leaving a family of three sons and a daughter, who are residents of Elyria. Since his time various quarries have been developed around town, the most notable being the Mussey quarry, owned by H. E. Mussey & Sons.

The first street-sprinkling was done by a hose cart filled by a common wood pump at the foot of Main street and cost water takers 25 cents a week.

The scenery about Elyria is very grand and unusually lovely. It has been injured about the approaches to the cave by quarrying the stone. East and West Falls are very remarkable. The cave near West Falls is spacious enough to hold a large company. It is frequently visited and the walls are covered with names, even the ceiling. The name of Q. A. Gilmore is among them. He carved his name in the rock when a pupil in the high school in town. The junction of the rivers, the natural bridge, the island and other points have been frequently described by visitors coming to Elyria. Persons of note have written of the wonderful scenery and spent hours wandering over it and enjoying it. It was a favorite recreation among our young people to make up little parties and with lunch baskets to go to the natural bridge, often entertaining guests from other localities. We were very proud of the wonderful scenery we could show. Artists from abroad and our own took many views which have been for sale from time to time. Sunset Rock on the Point was in later years a place of resort. After the

trees in the road were out and land near by cleared enough to grow corn, it was gathered by the young people and roasted by the burning stumps. Many who are now grandmothers and grandfathers can tell of romances originated there.

The approach to the cave was seriously interrupted by the fall of the Big Rock. This occurred early in the morning in July, 1872. The portion which fell was that which formed the table over which the road passed and carried away a surface equal to ten square rods and was computed to weigh thirteen thousand tons. The noise attending the falling of this great mass of rock startled the town and changed the scenery about the river, which was made more striking. So many spots around the town could be cultivated as city parks.

In early days dancing and cards were not indulged in, as great prejudice existed in the minds of the pioneer fathers and mothers. But young people did not lack amusements. Riding horseback in parties in summer, sleigh rides in winter, lyceums, singing schools, social visits without great preparation, making one dread as it is sometimes felt to be now. There was so much feeling against dancing after a party had occurred by some who danced. One good minister preached against it. How he knew what dancing was he did not tell. A young man connected with a newspaper wrote the following, as the minister's probable opinion:

"Oh, could these walls but speak,
A story they could tell
Of those who heard the fiddle squeak
And danced their souls to hell."

If cards were played it was secretly in offices and back rooms.

Children's toys were very simple and very satisfactory. Little girls' rag-babies and dolls turned out by chair maker Emmons, faces painted with red cheeks and black eyes, legs



EAST FALLS AND OLD RED MILL

and arms made of cloth, rolled in shape, and dressed in gay attire, satisfied the child. Sometimes a wax doll from old Massachusetts, sent to a little girl was a wonderful revelation of beauty to all the children, who could see it. The cups of nuts made pretty dishes with bits of broken china for the play house. We had no bicycles but a board across a log and a girl at each end singing, "Teeter totter, milk and water," was great fun. Schools only had a half-holiday Saturday afternoon, and there were some tasks before the hour for play, sewing over-hand so far, if not well done, rip up and sew over, and knitting before the play.

LORAIN COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Among the attractive places of Elyria are the Historical Rooms of Lorain County in the basement of the court house. In 1888, a temporary organization was formed by the women of the town assisted and contributed to by others in the county, to represent the women of the county in Columbus, at the Centennial Exposition. It was so successful, that it was decided to organize a permanent society which was done in a small room in a private house, but it soon outgrew its limited quarters and arrangements were made with the County Commissioners for two rooms in the court house and soon increased to three, which are well filled with curios from many foreign countries, choice records of the war, with many of the guns and other articles of warfare, geological specimens, birds, a large number of photographs of early pioneers and of the present and of the charter members who organized this Society, who have passed on and whose memory is sacred.

Hon. Heman Ely and Mrs. Mary Ely, Hon. George G. Washburn, Mrs. John Boynton, Mrs. Agnes Manter, our first secretary, Fanny Topliff Brooks, who at Mrs. Manter's death filled the office of secretary and in one year followed Mrs. Manter.

OFFICERS.

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First Vice-President	MRS. S. A. CARY
Second Vice-President	MRS. D. C. BALDWIN
Third Vice-President	MRS. D. J. NYE
Corresponding Secretary	MRS. G. G. WASHBURN
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MRS. P. D. REEFY,	MRS. W. E. CAHOON,
MRS. J. H. FAXON,	MRS. I. D. FAXON.

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TERMS EXPIRE, APRIL, 1901.

MRS. W. E. MILLER,	MRS. W. F. WOOSTER,
MRS. P. D. REEFY,	MRS. S. J. HOWARD.

TERMS EXPIRE, APRIL, 1902.

MRS. PAMELIA BEEBE,	MRS. J. H. FAXON,
MRS. D. J. NYE,	MRS. J. C. HILL.

TERMS EXPIRE, APRIL, 1903.

MRS. L. B. SMITH,	MRS. I. D. FAXON,
MRS. FRANK BEEBE,	MRS. S. H. BOWEN.

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TERMS EXPIRE, APRIL, 1901.

GEORGE G. WASHBURN,*	M. STRAUS,
	A. W. NICHOLS.*

TERMS EXPIRE, APRIL, 1902.

W. F. WOOSTER,	EDWIN HALL,
	WM. G. SHARP.

*Deceased.

TERMS EXPIRE, APRIL, 1903.

D. C. BALDWIN,

F. S. REEFY,

I. D. FAXON.

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MRS. EDWIN HALL,

G. G. WASHBURN,*

MRS. S. LOUISE HOWARD,

MRS. SARAH WASHBURN,

MRS. W. F. WOOSTER.

* Deceased.



NEW COURT HOUSE

We have come from 1816 to 1900, reviewing imperfectly the growth of our beautiful Elyria. Surely it is a goodly heritage from the fathers. "We reap what they sowed." They came hundreds of miles, enduring weeks of toil and discomfort.

We accomplish the same journey in less than one day in steam cars.

We fly north, south, east and west by electricity. We light our shops, homes and streets by the same. We call our doctors, our grocers, we visit with our home friends and those far away. Every morning we hear from the Philippines, from South Africa, from the far away west prophesying the hot or cold wave coming. Will children repeat lessons in the same way? What is to come next?

As we have journeyed on, we have been mindful of the many we have known and would like to tell you of them.

But it is said that with years people grow "garrulous."

